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which is not much, but none the less impairs the reliability of the work. Though this mistake occurs throughout the book, by the perversity of mundane things there is a cumulation of errors on page 77. Thus Eudes Rigaud was archbishop of Rouen 1248-1275 (not 1247-1275). Jean de Sulli and Simon de Beaulieu were archbishops of Bourges (not Rouen), Bertrand du (not de) Got was archbishop of Bordeaux 1209-1305 (not 1297-1299, during which period he was bishop of Comminges), and Guillaume le Maire was bishop of Angers 1291-1314 (not 1290-1314, or 1261-1314, as given on page 59, where the correct date was evidently intended but the 9 probably was inverted). But this page is unique and does not fairly represent the book, which is generally accurate.

The second part of the study, *La Vie Paroissiale*, is treated in five chapters: I. L'Unité de la Paroisse; II. Les Intrus; III. Les Empiètements du Monde Laïque; IV. Vita et Honestas Clericorum (could not this have been in French since the rest of the titles are?); V. Conclusion. Admitting that a great deal of what is here set forth is already known, these chapters are none the less highly interesting and useful. Every one knows the impression gained from a short visit: certain episodes and objects remain in the mind with all the positiveness that comes from actual experience; and it is on the basis of these experiences and the impressions that one has gained, he knows not when or how, that the life of the place visited is pictured. The chapters before us with much skill take us for just such a fleeting visit to the parish curé, who is the central figure of these pages. In our short stay with him we get positive knowledge of some of his daily life and doings; we perceive that if he does all that is expected of him he will be a busy man, that his office requires capacity, courage, and education, that it gives him opportunity (which he does not always despise) to indulge his selfish or carnal nature, but, on the other hand, he can be, and often is, a tower of strength for the right. All this, these chapters permit us to see with our own eyes, as it were, and they deserve recognition for it.

The book has appended the text of certain pertinent sources which have not previously been printed.

EDWARD B. KREHBIEL.

Geschichte der Serben. Von CONSTANTIN JIREČEK. Erster Band (bis 1371). (Götha: Friedrich Andreas Perthes. 1911. Pp. xx, 442.)

At last we are to have a really scientific history of Servia. Hitherto there have been no general histories of the country available in Western languages save the by no means recent or impartial work of Kállay or the still older books of Hilferding and Rajić. The present work forms a part of the *Europäische Staatengeschichte*, begun by Heeren and Ukert, and continued by Giesebrecht and Lamprecht. The author, the well-known professor of Slavic philology in the University of Vienna, published, in 1876—at the age of twenty-two—an excellent *Geschichte der Bulgaren*, and has since put forth a long series of monographs dealing

with the historical geography and the trade relations of the Western Balkan lands in the Middle Ages.

The task of writing the history of medieval Serbia is by no means easy. The sources are fragmentary and scattered. There exists no *Codex Diplomaticus*, no *Regesta*, no *Fontes Rerum Serbicarum*, no historical bibliography. In spite of the labors of numerous Servian and Croatian scholars of the present day, a host of problems remained unexplored or still within the realm of hypothesis. It was decidedly a case of having to build up the whole structure independently from the very foundation.

The first volume gives a survey of the pre-Slavic period of Balkan history; the settlement of Illyricum by the Slavs; the political, social, and economic organization of the Serbs in the early Middle Ages; and, finally, the political history under the Nemanja dynasty down to the battle of the Marica and the death of the last Servian emperor in 1371. This last period was, of course, the golden age of medieval Serbia, an age replete with interest, not only for Slavacists, but for the general student of Eastern European history, and especially for those who seek to measure the political and cultural influence of Byzantium. It is impossible to understand the Servian people of to-day without some knowledge of the heroic age to which the race looks back for its ideals—the age of Stephen Dušan, “Emperor of the Servians and the Greeks”, when Serbia, the dominant power in the Peninsula, ruled from Dalmatia to Thessaly and to the gates of Constantinople.

Professor Jireček's book has the good qualities traditionally associated with German scholarship: thoroughness, accuracy, and sureness of judgment. He cites the sources with rare fidelity and discrimination; he indicates fully the secondary authorities for each chapter. Unfortunately, he writes without any pretensions to style and with scarcely a trace of human emotion—in the approved philological manner. In describing the terribly complicated politics of the Balkan Peninsula in the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries, he seldom spares us a campaign, a raid, even a border skirmish; he whirls us, year after year, from Italy to Asia Minor, from the Danube to the Peloponnesus; one is fairly dazed by the ever shifting combinations, the constant changes in territory and in the balance of power, the endless series of meaningless names, the mass of petty details. We see Greeks, Latins, Servians, Bulgarians, Magyars, Venetians, Saracens, Turks, and all the brood of Gog and Magog, engaged in a grand mêlée, but we are seldom told what it all means, for the writer rarely indulges in a paragraph of comment or explanation. As a repertory of information the book can be highly commended; but it comes dangerously near being merely a collection of desiccated facts.

The succeeding volume is to deal with the internal conditions under the Nemanja dynasty and with the age of the Despots down to the Turkish Conquest. Presumably the work will extend to four volumes.

R. H. LORD.